DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 271 554 CE 044 636

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TITLE State Governance of Vocational Education, 1986.
INSTITUTION National Association of State Directors of Vocational Education.; Ohio State Univ., Columbus. National Center for Research in Vocational Education.
PUB DATE Jul 86
NOTE 19p.
PUB TYPE Reports - Research/Technical (143)

EDRS PRICE MF01/PC01 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS *Educational Administration; *Governance; National Surveys; Postsecondary Education; *Program Administration; Secondary Education; *State Departments of Education; *Statewide Planning; *Vocational Education

ABSTRACT

A study examined the current status of state governance structures for vocational education in the United States. A survey instrument was sent to the chief officer for vocational education in each state, district, and territory in order to identify the type of governance structure in place in each area, the amount of time the structure had been in place, whether the structure was currently being studied, and whether any changes in the structure were being contemplated. State boards of education were responsible for administering vocational education in 41 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. Separate boards for vocational education were in existence in seven states and in the Virgin Islands, a university board of regents was responsible for administering vocational education in Hawaii, and the state superintendent was the sole agent and executive officer of the state board in Montana. At the time of the survey, studies of the governance structure were either planned or underway in nine of the states/territories, and changes in the existing governance structure were anticipated in three states and in Puerto Rico. (MN)

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STATE GOVERNANCE OF VOCATIONAL EDUCATION, 1986

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July 1986

CE044636

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STATE GOVERNANCE OF VOCATIONAL EDUCATION, 1986

Overview

This document reports the findings of a survey conducted in February, 1986 and validated in July, 1986. It was the purpose of the survey to determine the current status of state governance structures for vocational education in the United States. The survey instrument, which was sent to the chief officer for vocational education in each state, district, and territory, asked for the following information:

1. The type of governance structure for vocational education in the state, district, or territory
2. How long the governance structure has been in place
3. Whether the state is currently studying its governance structure for vocational education
4. Whether the state is currently planning to study its governance structure
5. Who or what agency or group is conducting (or will conduct) a study of the governance structure, if a study is planned or underway
6. Whether plans currently exist to change the state governance structure for vocational education, and if so, when the change is expected to occur
7. What the nature of the expected change will be
8. What the anticipated impact of the expected change will be

Information on the governance structures of all of the states and territories is summarized in Table 1. The table also flags those states where a study is planned or underway. Finally, the table flags those states where a change in the governance structure is expected.

TABLE 1

SUMMARY OF STATE GOVERNANCE STRUCTURES
FOR VOCATIONAL EDUCATION, 1986

Governance Structure	States		
State Board of Education (includes state board acting as board for vocational education)	Alabama	Maine*	Pennsylvania
	Alaska	Maryland	Rhode Island
	Arizona	Massachusetts	South Carolina
	Arkansas	Michigan	South Dakota
	California	Mississippi	Tennessee
	Connecticut[a]	Missouri	Texas
	Delaware	Nebraska	Utah[a]
	Florida[ab]	Nevada	Vermont
	Georgia*	New Hampshire*	Virginia
	Idaho[a]	New Jersey	Washington D.C.
	Illinois	New Mexico	West Virginia
	Iowa	New York	Wyoming
	Kansas	North Carolina[a]	Puerto Rico[ab]
	Kentucky	Ohio	
	Louisiana	Oregon[a]	
Separate Board for Vocational Education	Colorado*	North Dakota[a]	Wisconsin
	Indiana[a]	Oklahoma	Virgin Islands
	Minnesota*	Washington[b]	
University Board of Regents	Hawaii[a]		
State Superintendent as Sole Agent and Executive Officer of State Board	Montana[ab]		

[a]Study planned or underway.

[b]Change anticipated in governance structure.

*Colorado: Vocational education is governed by State Board for Community Colleges and Occupational Education

*Georgia: On July 1 a Board for Postsecondary Vocational Education was created. The State Board of Education will remain the governing structure to receive and disburse federal funds.

*Maine and New Hampshire: Postsecondary vocational education is governed by an autonomous Board. The State Board is responsible for secondary vocational education and the disbursement of funds under the Perkin's Act.

*Minnesota: Postsecondary vocational education is under the State Board for Vocational-Technical Education, which is the sole state agency. Secondary vocational education is under the State Board of Education.

The remainder of this document reports the specific information obtained from the survey. The information is organized in alphabetical order, by state or territory.

The State Reports

ALABAMA

- Governance of vocational education by the State Board of Education.
- Structure in place since 1964 (22 years).
- No study or changes currently underway or planned.

ALASKA

- Governance of vocational education by the State Board of Education.
- No information was reported on length of time of structure's existence.
- No study or changes currently underway or planned, although the State Governor is considering the possibility.

ARIZONA

- Governance of vocational education by the State Board of Education.
- Structure in place since 1983 (3 years).
- No study or changes currently underway or planned.

ARKANSAS

- Governance of vocational education by a separate State Board for Vocational Education; the same nine members also serve as the State Board of Education. There are two independent state agencies: the Vocational and Technical Education Division and the General Education Division.
- Structure in place since July, 1981 (5 years).
- No study or changes currently underway or planned.

CALIFORNIA

- Governance of vocational education by the State Board of Education.
- Structure in place "since the state began receiving federal vocational education funds."
- No study or changes currently underway or planned, although this could change if S.1990 (Quayle) is enacted at the national level.

COLORADO

- Governance of vocational education by the State Board for Community Colleges and Occupational Education.
- Structure in place since 1967 (19 years).
- A study was recently comleted. It examined the state governance structure for vocational education. The Colorado Commission on Higher Education conducted the study, as mandated by the Colorado Legislature. The state did not change the governance structure.

CONNECTICUT

- Governance of vocational education by the State Board of Education.
- Structure in place since 1906 (80 years).
- A study is currently underway to examine the state governance structure for vocational education. The study is being conducted by a group nominated by the State Board. There are no plans to change the state governance of vocational education at this time.

DELAWARE

- Governance of vocational education by the State Board of Education.
- Structure in place since the inception of the governance system.
- No study or changes currently underway or planned.

FLORIDA

- Governance of vocational education by the State Board of Education.
- Structure in place since 1918 (68 years).
- A study is currently underway. The Florida Commission on Vocational Education is conducting the study. The state does plan to change its governance of vocational education, but a date for the change to take effect has not been determined. The change will involve reclassifying the position of Director to that of Deputy Commissioner. The change in the governance structure is expected to bring greater visibility to vocational education in the state.

GEORGIA

- Governance of vocational education at the **secondary** level by the State Board of Education. As required by Georgia's 1986 Quality Basic Education Act, Part 14, Code 20-2-300(e), **postsecondary** institutions (including postsecondary vocational-technical programs) are now operated by a new, separate postsecondary Board. However, the State Board of Education is still the sole state agency to receive federal funds for voc-ed.
- Structure in place less than 1 year (see legislation, above).
- No study or changes currently underway or planned. However, the anticipated impact of the **recent change** in governance structure is not yet clear. One probable effect will be that the state governance structure will exert more control over the postsecondary institutions. It is not yet clear how federal funds for vocational education will be divided.

HAWAII

- Governance of vocational education by the University Board of Regents, which also serves as the State Board for Vocational Education.
- Structure in place since 1971 (15 years).
- A study is planned to examine the governance structure. A private consultant will conduct the study. There may be a change in the state governance structure as a result of the planned study, but the date when such a change will take place is undetermined at this time. What the nature of the potential change in structure would be, or what effect it may have, are as yet unknown.

IDAHO

- Governance of vocational education by the State Board of Education, which is also the State Board for Vocational Education. The administrative arm (the State Division of Vocational Education) is a separate state agency, however.
- Structure in place since before 1956 (30+ years).
- No study or changes currently underway or planned.

ILLINOIS

- Governance of vocational education by the State Board of Education.
- Structure in place since 1975 (11 years).
- No study or changes currently underway or planned.

INDIANA

- Governance of vocational education by a separate State Board for Vocational Education.
- Structure in place since 1975 (11 years).
- A study is currently underway to examine the governance structure for voc-ed. The Hudson Institute is conducting the study through a contract. No plans exist to change the governance structure.

IOWA

- Governance of vocational education by the State Board of Education.
- Structure in place since 1954 (32 years).
- No study or changes currently underway or planned.

KANSAS

- Governance of vocational education by the State Board of Education.
- Structure in place since 1968 (18 years).
- No study or changes currently underway or planned.

KENTUCKY

- Governance of vocational education by the State Board of Education.
- Structure in place since 1980 (6 years). Note that a separate Board for Occupational Education was created in 1977, but was abolished by Executive Order in 1980.
- A study is currently underway. A special Governor's Commission on Vocational Education has been charged to study voc-ed in the state, including a review of the governance structure. The Commission will report its findings to the General Assembly. A change in structure may occur, but if so, the date of the change has yet to be determined. A proposed governance structure change would create a separate Board for Adult and Vocational-Technical Education, which would be on par with the current Council on Higher Education and the State Board of Education. If the proposed change in structure were to occur, one purpose would be to increase the visibility and resources for adult basic and postsecondary (nondegree) vocational-technical education.

LOUISIANA

- Governance of vocational education by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, which also serves as the Board for Vocational Education.
- Structure in place since 1975 (11 years).
- A study is currently underway. The State Board is conducting the study of its own governance structure. A change in structure **may** occur, as the state will gain an appointed Superintendent of Education in March 1988, as mandated by 1985 state legislation. This will involve the governance of vocational education. However, other changes in governance structure as a result of the current study are uncertain at this time. One certain governance change will be the change of the post of Superintendent of Education from an elected post to one appointed by the State Board. The expected impact on the governance structure will be that the new authority of the State Board to appoint the Superintendent will give the Board more policymaking power by being able to select the chief educational administrator.

MAINE

- Governance of vocational education by the State Board of Education. A recent change separated **secondary** and **postsecondary** voc-ed.
- Structure in place since before 1966 (over 20 years).
- A study was recently completed . The Board of Trustees of Maine's Vocational Technical Institutes conducted the study. The study resulted in separating postsecondary from secondary governance by creating a new Board for Postsecondary Education. Disbursement of funds under The Perkins Act remains with the State Board of Education.

MARYLAND

- Governance of vocational education by the State Board of Education.
- Structure in place since the system was established.
- No study or changes currently underway or planned.

MASSACHUSETTS

- Governance of vocational education by the State Board of Education.
- Structure in place since 1906 (80 years).
- No study currently underway or planned, although a notation suggests that plans for a change in governance are possible at some time in the future.

MICHIGAN

- Governance of vocational education by the State Board of Education.
- Structure in place "as long as we have had federal involvement."
- No study or changes currently underway or planned.

MINNESOTA

- Secondary vocational education is under the State Board of Education. Postsecondary vocational education is under the State Board of Vocational-Technical Education, which is the sole state agency.
- Structure in place since 1983-84 (2-1/2 years).
- No study currently underway or planned, although plans for a change in governance are possible in the future. Such a change might involve decreasing the number of administrative units in order to contain costs.

MISSISSIPPI

- Governance of vocational education by the State Board of Education. This is very recent (since July 1, 1985), as a separate Board for Vocational Education existed prior to that date.
- Structure in place since July 1, 1985.
- No study currently underway or planned, although plans for a change in governance are possible in the future. Such a change might involve **proposed legislation** that would separate postsecondary vocational education and place it under a Board controlling all postsecondary education. If this change were to occur, it could have negative consequences by "fragmenting what is now a good, workable vocational delivery system."

MISSOURI

- Governance of vocational education by the State Board of Education.
- Structure in place since 1947 (39 years).
- No study or changes currently underway or planned.

MONTANA

- Governance of vocational education is controlled by the State Superintendent, who is the sole agent and executive officer of the State Board of Education.
- Structure in place since 1979 (7 years).
- A study is currently underway. A Legislative Study Commission, chaired by State Senator George McCallum, is conducting the study. Plans to change the governance structure, scheduled for January 1987, involve centralizing the state vocational education system under the State Superintendent. The change will take most control of vocational education from the local level and give it to the state. This would reduce local autonomy and could potentially lose funds currently provided by a local high school district permissive levy. It could also result in an eventual reduction in the number of postsecondary schools.

NEBRASKA

- Governance of vocational education by the State Board of Education.
- Structure in place since 1955 (31 years).
- No study or changes currently underway or planned.

NEVADA

- Governance of vocational education by the State Board of Education, which also serves as the State Board for Occupational Education (i.e., two "hats" and two titles).
- Structure in place since before 1950 (over 26 years).
- No study or changes underway or planned.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

- Governance of vocational education at the **secondary** level by the State Board of Education; at the **postsecondary** level by the Board of Governors of the Department of Postsecondary Vocational-Technical Education, which has its own Commissioner. However, federal funds for vocational education come to the State Board of Education, and a portion is then transferred to the Postsecondary Department.

- Structure for secondary voc-ed in place "forever." Structure for postsecondary voc-ed in place since 1984 (2 years).

- A study was recently completed as part of a general effort to reorganize state government. The State Legislature, the Governor's staff, and the State Board of Education collaborated in conducting the study. Changes in the governance of voc-ed were slight and went into effect on July 1, 1986. They include (1) having the Commissioner of Education be appointed by the State Board for a 4-year term; and (2) having Division heads be unclassified and be nominated for staggered 4-year terms by the Commissioner, with confirmation by the Board. The impact of the expected changes will include making the Bureau Chiefs within Divisions (e.g., State Director of Vocational Education) the highest level classified (nonpolitically appointed) administrators. Also, "depending on your point of view," the possible impacts include (1) allowing politics to "creep one layer deeper into the bureaucracy," or (2) allowing the bureaucracy to "become more responsive to the Governor."

NEW JERSEY

- Governance of vocational education is by the State Board of Education; programs at institutions of higher education are governed by the Board of Higher Education. Governance is in accord with a signed interagency agreement.

- Structure in place since 1975 (11 years).

- No study or changes currently underway or planned.

NEW MEXICO

- Governance of vocational education by the State Board of Education.

- Structure in place "since inception."

- No study or changes currently underway or planned.

NEW YORK

- Governance of vocational education by the State Board of Education.
- Structure in place since 1925 (61 years).
- No study or changes currently underway or planned.

NORTH CAROLINA

- Governance of vocational education by the State Board of Education.
- Structure in place for over 50 years.
- A legislative study of vocational education is underway. Governance is not an issue in the study, but it may emerge as one. The Governmental Operations Committee of the State General Assembly is conducting the general study of vocational education.

NORTH DAKOTA

- Governance of vocational education is by a separate State Board for Vocational Education.
- Structure in place since 1955 (31 years).
- A study is currently underway. An Interim Legislative Committee on Education is conducting the study. A change in governance is not expected, but if one were to occur, it would go into effect on July 1, 1987. A proposed governance change may put vocational education under the Superintendent of Public Instruction. The effect of the proposed change would be to divide governance of secondary and postsecondary vocational education.

OHIO

- Governance of vocational education by the State Board of Education.
- Structure in place since 1956 (30 years).
- No study or changes currently underway or planned.

OKLAHOMA

- Governance of vocational education for **secondary, adult, and business/industry training** by the State Board of Vocational and Technical Education; for **postsecondary** by the State Regents for Higher Education.
- No data was reported on how long structure has been in place.
- No study or changes currently underway or planned.

OREGON

- Governance of vocational education by the State Board of Education. This includes K-12, and community colleges.
- Structure in place since 1960 (26 years).
- A study is currently underway that is looking at state governance of community colleges for possible legislative action. This study includes a look at governance of postsecondary vocational education. The Oregon Community College Association is conducting the study. Changes in state governance of **postsecondary** vocational education are possible, but no timeline has been set. The nature and impact of the potential changes are unknown at this time.

PENNSYLVANIA

- Governance of vocational education by the State Board of Education.
- Structure in place since the early 1900s (at least 80 years).
- No study or changes currently underway or planned.

PUERTO RICO

- Governance of vocational education by the State Board of Education.
- Structure in place since 1974 (12 years).
- Plans for a study are underway. No group or agency is named to conduct the study, but the expected date of changes is August 1, 1986. The nature and impact of the proposed changes will expand the role of vocational-technical education to "Third System" schools to serve special needs populations and groups at risk.

RHODE ISLAND

- Governance of vocational education by the State Board of Education.
- Structure in place since before 1976 (10+ years).
- No study or changes currently underway or planned.

SOUTH CAROLINA

- Governance of vocational education by the State Board of Education.
- Structure in place since 1917 (69 years).
- A study was recently completed under the auspices of the South Carolina Education Revitalization Act. The Governor's Office and the State Legislature collaborated in conducting the study. The nature of the changes which took effect July 1, 1986 are: (1) expansion of the State Board for Technical and Comprehensive Education (governs postsecondary/adult voc-ed), (2) establishment of a state-level Coordinating Council for Economic Development, and (3) establishment of local-level job training advisory councils. The impact of these changes should improve the coordination and joint planning for job training and economic development in the state.

SOUTH DAKOTA

- Governance of vocational education by the State Board of Education.
- Structure in place since April 1985 (1 year).
- No study or changes currently underway or planned; however, a change in governance is possible in the future in order to reduce costs. Such a change would likely return governance of vocational education to a single, separate Board and would remove the area vocational-technical institutes from local control.

TENNESSEE

- Governance of vocational education by the State Board of Vocational Education.
- No study or changes currently underway or planned.

TEXAS

- Governance of vocational education for the **secondary** level by the State Board of Education; for the **postsecondary** level by the Higher Education Board.
- Structure in place since late 1985.
- No study or changes currently underwa or planned.

UTAH

- Governance of vocational education by the State Board of Education.
- No data was reported on how long structure has been in place.
- A study is currently underway. No data was reported on what group or agency is conducting the study. **No changes** in governance structure are expected as a result of the study.

VERMONT

- Governance of vocational education by the State Board of Education.
- Structure in place "since the days of the 'Republic of Vermont'."
- No study or changes currently underway or planned.

VIRGINIA

- Governance of vocational education by the State Board of Education.
- Structure in place since 1917 (69 years).
- No study or changes currently underway or planned.

VIRGIN ISLANDS

- Governance of vocational education by a separate State Board for Vocational Education.
- Structure in place since 1950 (36 years).
- No study or changes currently underway or planned.

STATE OF WASHINGTON

- Governance of vocational education has been by a separate State Board for Vocational Education.
- Structure in place since July 1, 1975 (11 years).
- A study for "sunset" review purposes has recently been completed . The Legislative Budget Committee and the State Legislature conducted the study. Changes in the governance structure are possible in 1987. If the state legislature does not act in January, 1987, the Governor will determine the sole state agency.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

- Governance of vocational education by the District of Columbia Board of Education, which functions as both the State Board of Education and the State Board of Vocational Education.
- Structure in place since early 1986 (less than 1 year).
- No study or changes currently underway or expected.

WEST VIRGINIA

- Governance of vocational education by the State Board of Education.
- Structure in place "forever."
- No study or changes currently underway or expected.

WISCONSIN

- Governance of vocational education by a separate State Board for Vocational Education.
- Structure in place, with minor modifications, since 1903 (75 years).
- No study or changes currently underway or planned, although a change in governance structure is possible in the future.

WYOMING

- Governance of vocational education by the State Board of Education.
- Structure in place since 1955 (31 years).
- No study or changes currently underway or planned for state **governance**; however, the State Legislature is currently reviewing the State Department of Education's report on vocational education costs for possible changes in the methods of **funding** for secondary vocational education.